

City Council of the City of New Castle
Regular Council Meeting at Town Hall – 201 Delaware Street – New Castle
Tuesday- December 10, 2013-7 p.m. Canceled
Meeting Postponed due to inclement weather
Tuesday – December 17, 2013 – 7 p.m.

Call to order: 7:00 p.m.

Present

Councilperson Megginson
Councilperson Cochran (absent)
Council President Ratchford
Councilperson Petty
Councilperson Vannucci

Also present:

Jeff Bergstrom, Building Official & Fire Marshall
Janet Carlin, City Treasurer
Daniel Losco, City Solicitor
Lt. Adam Brams, Department of Public Safety
Marian Delaney, Finance & HR Manager
William Barthel, City Administrator
Donald Reese, Mayor

Council President Ratchford thanked everyone for coming out on such a cold evening for the meeting.

Approval of Minutes by Date: Nov. 11th, Nov. 12th, Nov. 15th, Nov. 19th. Councilperson Megginson made a motion and Councilperson Vannucci seconded approval of the minutes without changes. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Janet Carlin reported on the balances of the city's accounts as of November 30, 2013. The total cash on hand in all accounts is \$3,230,823.86.

Council President Ratchford called for a motion to accept the report. The motion was made by Councilperson Megginson, Councilperson Vannucci seconded approval of the report. The Council unanimously accepted the report.

Approval of Staff Reports

Council President Ratchford asked if there anything to be added to the reports. No additional information was added. Council President Ratchford accepted the reports as submitted.

Grant Review

Council President Ratchford presented the Grant Review for Councilperson Cochran.

The City has been awarded the 2013 Municipal Tree Planting & Management Grant. The City is always looking for new opportunities for new grants.

Communications

Christmas Party for the Children - Councilperson Megginson congratulated everyone on the successful Christmas Party for the Children. The event was held at the Good Will Fire house on December 14, 2013. He congratulated Councilperson Vannucci, Police, VIPS, Good Will Fire Company the many volunteers and business owners that helped to support the event. Councilperson Megginson said the event was a great success and good for the community.

Other Communication

Delivering Dinner and Gifts Christmas Eve - Councilperson Vannucci announced that on December the 24th, Christmas Eve, Councilperson Vannucci, Councilperson Cochran and, Mr. Barthel along with the City Police will be delivering dinner and gifts to seven families in the community. Saint Anthony's made a very generous donation to help with the cost. Councilperson Vannucci said that the event would not have been possible without the joint effort of all the Council members, Mr. Barthel, Mayor Reese and all the volunteers.

Business from the Floor

No comments from the floor.

Business from the Mayor

Separation Day Committee will start meeting at the end of January. As soon as the meeting date is confirmed it will be announced. Mayor Reese announced his two appointees to the Planning Commission Mr. Daniel Bungy and, Mr. Michael Quaranta; they will both be serving a three year term, with term ending in 2016.

Business from the Council President

Council President Ratchford wished everyone a safe and Happy Holiday.

New Business

Presentation of Bronze Delaware Healthy Community Award

Councilperson Petty accepted this award in Dover on behalf of the City of New Castle. Councilperson Petty, Linda Ratchford, Jack Witzman and Doctor Joanne Viola all participated in the successful application which resulted in the city of New Castle receiving this award. The City received a plaque to be posted somewhere within the city. "Delaware Healthy Community New Castle Bronze Winner"

Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution 2013-49, authorizing the City of New Castle to apply for the 2013 Tobacco Prevention & Control Mini-Grant provided through the American Lung Association.

A Motion to approve Resolution No. 2013-49 Motion was made by Councilperson Megginson and seconded approval by Councilperson President Ratchford.

President Ratchford read the resolution.

Resolution No. 2013-49 passed unanimously.

Discussion with Auditor on FY 12 City Audit.

The audit was presented by Vincent Barbone from the firm Haggerty and Haggerty, PA. Mr. Barbone reviewed the 2011-2012 audit. He complemented the City on what a great job it is doing.

Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution 2013-50 to approve the FY12 City audit. The Motion to approve Resolution 2013-50 was made by Councilperson Vannucci and seconded approval by Councilperson Petty.

Resolution 2013-50 approved unanimously.

Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution 2013-47 approving the Mayor's appointments to the Planning Commission.

The Motion to approve Resolution No. 2013-47 Motion was made by Councilperson Petty and seconded approval by Councilperson Megginson.

President Ratchford read the resolution.

Resolution No. 2013-47 passed unanimously.

Mr. Daniel Bungy, appointment to Planning commission December 10, 2013 for a 3 year term with the term ending December 10, 2016

Mr. Michael Quaranta, appointment to Planning commission December 10, 2013 for a 3 year with the term ending December 10, 2016

Resolution 2013-47 passed unanimously.

Both appointments thanked Council and the Mayor for giving them the opportunity to serve the City.

Motion, Discussion and Vote on Resolution 2013-48 providing a lump-sum pension benefit to one retiree of the City of New Castle.

The Motion to approve Resolution No. 2013-48 Motion was made by Councilperson Vannucci and seconded approval by Councilperson Megginson. With one Councilperson abstaining, Councilperson Petty abstained.

President Ratchford read the resolution.

Resolution No. 2013-48 passed with one abstention

Discussion of the City's Funding Request to the Trustees FY14/15 fiscal year.

The City will be requesting \$200,000.00 from the Trustees this year. The Council will also be requesting \$25,000.00 to fund a consultant to review the HAC guide lines. Council President Ratchford commented that this request seemed to be appropriate, since Trustees are a Land and Building Trust. Mayor Reese suggested requesting lighting for the flagpole and along the walkway in Battery Park. Council President Ratchford felt the Battery Park Committee could address that request.

Motion, Discussion and Vote on a Bank Resolution, to pay to DNREC the 7th quarterly installment of the principal and interest payment for the City's ARRA projects, in the amount of \$49,022.49.

The Motion to approve the Bank Resolution to pay DNREC the 7th quarterly installment.

President Ratchford read the resolution.

The Bank Resolution was passed unanimously

Motion, Discussion and Vote on a Bank Resolution to approve workers compensation audit payment in the amount of \$51,100.00 to American Health Casualty, for year ending 6-30-13

A Motion to approve the Bank Resolution to pay for the worker compensation audit payment was made by Councilperson Vannucci and seconded by Councilperson Megginson.

President Ratchford read the resolution.

The Bank Resolution passed unanimously

Comments from the floor.

There were no comments from the floor.

The motion to adjourn was made by Councilperson Vannucci seconded by Councilperson Petty and passed unanimously. Council adjourned at 7:36 pm, and will reconvene in twenty minutes for Executive Session.

Council met in Executive Session to discuss police chief applicants' job qualifications.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Denton